



January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am quite sure that there have been many people writing you about this settlement that are more directly involved in the business of software and networking than am I. Unlike most of those people, I am writing as a simple business user of software, and have no particular axe to grind one way or the other. However, I am writing to express both my support as well as my perspective on this issue.

Business users like me have for a long time had many options and choices of a wide range of software products to assist our company's productivity and reporting accuracy. Many of us would prefer the relative ease of using products specifically designed for integration into the operating system that we use at our workstations, as well as on the company network. Microsoft has provided this integration-by-design and, while there are many fine software products that are available to perform the same functions, I have always found it simpler to take advantage of Microsoft's integrated software.

What this lawsuit would have done if it had gone on with respect to our use of many Microsoft products is, of course, unclear. However, it would be safe to assume that this software integration would have been one of the first casualties of any court judgment. It is therefore a good thing that this lawsuit has settled and this issue has not seriously affected our business software.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Snow".

Michael Snow  
System Engineer

CC: Senator Harry Reid

MARITECH CORPORATION • 1495 Ridgeview Drive, Suite 110 • Reno, NV 89509  
Voice: (775) 824-3777 • Facsimile: (775) 824-3766 • <http://www.maritechservices.com>